(e) So far, no grid connected solar PV power plant, based on third generation solar PV technologies, has been installed in Rajasthan.

(f) The Government is promoting renewable power generation through a mix of fiscal and financial incentives and other policy/regulatory measures. These include capital/ interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation and nil/ concessional excise and customs duties. Under the Electricity Act 2003, it has been made obligatory upon State Electricity Regulatory Authorities to fix a minimum percentage for purchase of electricity from renewable sources taking into account local factors. Preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power is being given in most potential States following the provisions made under the National Electricity Policy 2005 and National Tariff Policy 2006. Uniform guidelines by CERC for fixation of such preferential tariffs have been issued recently. Generation Based Incentives Scheme on a pilot basis for Solar Power have also been introduced to attract private investment by Independent Power Producers not availing Accelerated Depreciation benefit.

Mega solar energy initiative

395. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after having approved a mega solar energy initiative, Government is planning to give a major thrust to overall renewable energy as it was way for the future and would go a long way in meeting Indiaus energy needs in addition to reducing environmental hazards;

(b) whether the Ministry had declared to launch a solar mission programme across the country from November 14; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to implement policy for launching solar mission programme?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has set a target to install 14,000 MW capacity renewable energy based grid power generation plants during the 11th plan period in the country.

Government has also approved Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission to develop solar energy technologies to make solar power competitive to conventional grid power. The Mission aims at setting up of 20,000 MW grid solar power and 2,000 MW of off-grid solar power including 20 million solar lights. In addition, it aims at installation of 20 million square metre solar thermal collector area by 2022. The Mission will be implemented in three phases. Government has approved the target to set up 1,100 MW grid connected solar plants and 200 MW capacity equivalent off-grid solar applications in the first phase of the Mission, till 2012-13.

In addition, the Mission will also support research and development to reduce cost, improve efficiency and overall performance of solar energy systems and also for development of new materials and devices.